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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1852.

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D.D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

ON the recommendation of the Council, it was Resolved:—

I. That the Academy do authorize the payment of the rent of the new Academy House for the half-year commencing 29th September, 1851.

II. That the Academy do authorize the payment of the sum of £100 to the Dawson-street Club, for fixtures in the new Academy House.

III. That the Academy do take the necessary steps to dispose of its existing interest in the lease of the house which it now occupies.

It was also Resolved :—

That the President, Council, and Officers of the Academy be requested to draw up an Address to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, expressing the grateful sense entertained by the Academy of the important benefits which he has conferred upon them.

The Rev. Samuel Butcher, D. D., read a Paper by the Rev. Francis Crawford, on the affinity of Hebrew to the Celtic dialects. The author, in a former communication to the Academy, whilst considering merely the formative elements, had pointed out some modes of stem-formation common to both. In the present paper he proposes to consider the analogies afforded by the radical parts of the words, and for this purpose adduces a list of upwards of *five hundred* Hebrew words, which he considers intimately related to a corresponding number of words in Celtic. Of this list the great majority appear to him so clearly identical with their Celtic equivalents, that he considers their relationship almost obvious at a glance;

whilst to trace the affinity of the remainder it is necessary to take into account certain euphonic or dialectic changes which some initial letters have undergone in passing from one dialect to another. Thus, for example, many Hebrew words possess an initial letter which is wanting in their Celtic representatives, e. g.:

אֶגְרֹת	, the fist,	cpob, the fist.
אָכֵל	, to eat,	ceal-aím, to eat.
אַמְּרִיר	, the top-summit, . . .	míp, the top.
בְּמֵד	, a staff, rod,	maide, a rod, staff.
נִכְמָטָם	, riches,	car, money.
בְּקַדְשָׁה	, spotted,	caidé, a spot.
סְפֻוָּן	, a covering,	puan, a covering.
שָׁלֹג	, snow,	laoð, snow.
מְשַׁמְּטָה	, to forgive,	maié-im, to forgive.

A remarkable exception to this takes place in the case of certain Hebrew words commencing with the liquids *l* or *r*, and whose counterparts in Celtic have some other letter prefixed. This prefixed letter, in the case of words beginning with *l*, is generally *g* or *c*, and in words beginning with *r* is frequently *d*, though it also is sometimes a guttural, labial, sibilant, or a vowel, e. g.:-

לֹטֶת	, a veil or covering, . . .	g-loé, a veil or covering.
לְחִמָּה	, to fight,	g-leicim, to fight.
לְכָדָה	, to take,	g-lacað, to take.
רוּם	, elevation, height, . . .	g-nom, a hill.
רְגַדְתָּה	, to adorn, beautify, . . .	g-peacaim, to adorn.
רְעֵדָה	, to love,	g-paigead, to love.
רַבָּה	, many,	g-pab, many.
רְפָאָה	, to cure,	g-peapað, a cure.

The writer then notices certain Hebrew letters represented by other different letters in Celtic, as *ש* by *sc* or *sg*, and also by *d*, and *ת* by *t* or *th*, e. g.:-

צָלֵל	, a shadow,	real, a shadow.
צָלֵל	, to tingle,	rgall-am, to tingle.

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| אָבַד , to fight, | beabaō, a dispute. |
| צִיּוֹן , Zion, a fortress, . . . | zion, a fortress, hill. |
| צְפֵר , to haste, | zeip̄ir, haste. |

and in the case of π :

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| חַבֵּל , darkness, | teimēal, darkness. |
| חַרְבָּה , killing, | top̄, killing. |
| חוֹזֶק , to go, | toic-im, to go. |

The last dialectic peculiarity which the writer notices is the fact, that certain Hebrew letters seem to have dropped a liquid (particularly *l* or *r*) after an initial consonant, which liquid is retained in Celtic, e. g. :—

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| בָּמָר, | a priest, | כְּרִיםְתֵּאָפָּה, | a priest. |
| כְּפַאָה, | to contract, | כְּרָפָאָה, | to contract. |
| עוֹז, | time, | כְּרָוֵן, | time. |
| חֲוֹנָה, | to practise sorcery
(Poel), | כְּרָוֵן-אִים, | to bewitch. |
| חַנְמָל, | some insect destruc-
tive to trees (Gesenius), | | |

In conclusion, Mr. Crawford expresses his conviction of the utility of the study of the Celtic dialect to a right understanding of Hebrew, and consequently to the true interpretation of Scripture.

The President communicated the following notice of a correction of the ordinary theorem by which the magnifying power of a telescope is determined.

Sir William Herschel long since noticed, that in his four-feet reflector he once saw the ring of Saturn without an eye-glass, but this remark does not seem to have been attended to by subsequent authors of optical treatises. It was, however, recalled to Dr. Robinson's thoughts by his observing that double stars appear in the 15-inch reflector of the Armagh Observatory considerably more separated than is due to the estimated magnifying power, and still more forcibly by his